

**DOMINGUEZ-ESCALANTE
NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA**
**DRAFT RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN
& ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**



Volume 1: Executive Summary & Chapters 1–7

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

April 2013

BLM

Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area • COLORADO



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The 210,012-acre Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area, which includes the 66,280-acre Dominguez Canyon Wilderness, was created by the 2009 Omnibus Public Lands Management Act and is part of the Bureau of Land Management's National Conservation Lands. Elevations in the NCA are approximately 4,800 to 8,200 feet.

NOTICE

The BLM released the Dominguez-Escalante NCA draft Resource Management Plan (RMP) for public comment on May 17, 2013.

Is there something about the Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area that is important to you? Make your voice heard: Tell us what you think of the draft RMP!

The public comment period will end on August 22, 2013.

Ready to read or comment? Click here to go directly to the draft plan on the BLM's ePlanning website

Need more info? Click here to go to the RMP website

Looking for the MAPS in the draft RMP? Click here to go to the Maps page on our RMP website

Click

Known for its breathtaking scenery, the Dominguez-Escalante NCA is a fine example of the spectacular canyon country of the Uncompahgre Plateau. Red-rock canyons and sandstone bluffs hold geological and paleontological resources spanning 600 million years, as well as many cultural and historic sites. The Ute Tribes today consider these

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Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area
Resource Management Plan

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Resource Management Plan

Dominguez-Escalante NCA draft Management Plan Released for Public Review

The BLM released the draft Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area for public review on May 17, 2013. This initiated a public comment period, which will last through August 22, 2013.

Click here to read the press release

Ready to read or comment? Click here to go directly to the draft plan on the BLM's ePlanning website

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The public comment period for the RMP planning process, and its summary, is the first of the public the

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SUBMITTING COMMENTS:

You can submit comments on the draft RMP directly from this website. To learn more about commenting in ePlanning, you can view a video tutorial online [here](#) or read a 3-page How-to, below, under "Instructions for Commenting on the draft RMP." In the video, skip to "Submitting Comments" for a 6-minute step-by-step.

Click on the document link below under "D-E NCA Draft RMP" to open the draft RMP and begin your comments.

To return to this page, click on the back button in your browser window (on the far upper left corner of the screen).

D-E NCA Draft RMP

Document Name	Release Date	Available Formats	Decision Records	Public Comment Period
Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement	05/14/2013	(26108 KB)		Open (05/17/2013 - 08/22/2013)

Errata

Document Name	Release Date	Available Formats	Decision Records	Public Comment Period
Errata for Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area draft RMP and EIS	05/14/2013	(99 KB)		

Instructions for Commenting on the Draft RMP

Document Name	Release Date	Available Formats	Decision Records	Public Comment Period
How to Comment in E-Planning	05/16/2013	(758 KB)		
What makes a substantive comment? BLM EIS Commenting Guidelines	01/22/2013	(24 KB)		

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Introduction

The United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared this Draft Resource Management Plan/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DRMP) for the Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area (D-E NCA). The BLM prepared this document in consultation with cooperating agencies, the D-E NCA Advisory Council, and the general public. This plan was prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended; the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976, as amended; the D-E NCA's establishing legislation within the Omnibus Public Lands Management Act of 2009 (Omnibus Act); implemented regulations, the BLM Land Use Planning Handbook (BLM 2005), and other applicable laws and policies.

The D-E NCA planning area (planning area) encompasses approximately 218,393 acres of private, State of Colorado and Federal surface lands in Mesa, Montrose, and Delta Counties, Colorado, situated between the communities of Grand Junction and Delta (see Table 1 and Map 1-1). The planning area consists of 210,012 acres of BLM-administered public land surface. This acreage number includes 209,610 acres designated in the Omnibus Act as well as 402 acres that were later acquired by the Federal Government (note that this acreage figure may vary throughout this document by up to 30 acres because of variability in the best available current survey information). These BLM-administered lands comprise the D-E NCA decision area (referred to hereafter as the D-E NCA). The management guidelines in this DRMP pertain only to BLM-administered land surface and not to private, State, or other Federal land surface. The D-E NCA encompasses the 66,280-acre Dominguez Canyon Wilderness (the Wilderness) (Map 1-2).

Table 1 Surface Land Status of Planning Area by County (in Acres)

Land Status	Mesa	Delta	Montrose	Total
BLM	119,958	59,718	30,315	209,991*
State of Colorado	0	1,638	327	1,965
Private	3,163	3,101	173	6,437
Total	123,121	64,456	30,816	218,393

*This acreage figure differs from the reported acreage within the text (see above).

The BLM currently manages public lands within the D-E NCA in accordance with the 1987 Grand Junction RMP, as amended (BLM 1987).

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